

Palestinian Youth Movement

PYM



Source: PYM's Facebook page

2019 REPORT

Summary

- PYM is a political, international organization comprised of young Palestinians both in the Palestinian territories and abroad. PYM's main and most active branch is located in the US and is known as PYM-U.S.A.
- **PYM has justified terror attacks and has supported members of US-designated terror organizations** such as Ghassan Kanafani, a leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Ali Al-Ghandour, Abdul-Hafeth Seelawi Ahmad and Abdullah Morjan, three Hamas terrorists, and Khader Adnan, a leader of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad. PYM has also used its social media accounts and conventions to endorse violence and hate.
- PYM-U.S.A. collaborates with terror-affiliated organizations in the US, such as the PFLP-affiliated Addameer and Samidoun.
- PYM's summer school, new community center in San Diego and collaboration with Students for Justice in Palestine are all outlets for PYM's growing influence and suggest that the Movement is gaining popularity among Palestinian youth.
- WESPAC Foundation is PYM's fiscal sponsor and has received grants on PYM's behalf such as a grant from the University of California.

Who are PYM?

Palestinian Youth Movement (PYM), an international movement of young Palestinians and Arabs aged 18-35, was originally known as PYN (Palestinian Youth Network) and was founded in 2007.¹ (It changed its name from PYN to PYM in 2011.²)

One of the PYM's co-founders, Louba Qutami,³ explained that the organization's development grew out of the necessity to once again focus on the Palestinian refugee question, the right of return and Palestinian liberation after the Oslo Accords, which many Palestinians saw as an abandonment by the Palestinian political leadership. In a 2012 article, Qutami stated: "our liberation struggle has been co-

¹ Facebook, [Palestinian Youth Movement – About](#)

² Palestinian Youth Movement, [Declaration of Statehood](#)

³ Arab American Civic Council, [Qutami to Deliver Keynote Address at Arab American Heritage Gala](#)

opted, hijacked, decimated, and reduced to debates on legitimate leadership, representation, and negotiations over territory amounting to only a fraction of historic Palestine and excluding the vast majority of the Palestinian people."⁴

As such, PYM aims to create a framework that enables young Palestinians to engage, mobilize, and launch initiatives about the future of the Palestinian people – both on the international and the national level.⁵ To that end, PYM convened international conventions, known as the International General Assembly (IGA), dedicated to the core questions of building movements, developing strategies, and organizational structure. These assemblies were attended by young Palestinians from numerous Arab and European countries, as well as representatives from the US.⁶

BDS as Part of a Broader, National Struggle for Liberation

At its first annual convention in Paris 2007, PYM issued a declaration of goals, means, strategies, and working methods.⁷ While emphasizing the importance of focusing on the right of return and strengthening Palestinian national identity and the use of Arabic among Palestinians in the diaspora, PYM notably did not mention the BDS Movement.⁸

Indeed, while PYM promotes and encourages BDS, it is not like other pro-Palestinian organizations in the BDS network in the US. Many organizations in the US frame their support for BDS as a human rights issue, using boycotts and divestments to advocate for Palestinian rights to freedom, justice and equality. PYM, on the other hand, sees BDS as merely a single element in its much broader political agenda of national Palestinian liberation.⁹

As Qutami herself pointed out in 2014, "The BDS story cannot texture the experiences, aspirations, desires, voices and needs of Palestinian youth of my generation who are seeking a political framework outside of the exhausted political paradigm and vocabulary of Oslo."¹⁰

Justifying Terror and Endorsing Terrorists

PYM has justified terror attacks, shown support for US-designated terror organizations, as well as glorified the leaders of these designated organizations.

⁴ Al-Shabaka, "[Looking for a leadership with a strategy](#)"

⁵ Safsaf, "[Palestinian Youth Network](#)"

⁶ Safsaf, "[PYM International General Assembly Paris 2007](#)"

⁷ Safsaf, "[Palestinian Youth Network](#)"

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Safsaf, "[Palestinian Youth Network](#)"

¹⁰ SocialText, "[Rethinking the single story: BDS, transitional cross movement building and the Palestine analytic](#)"

For example, on November 12, 2018, a PYM delegation to Israel and the Palestinian territories, spent time with Yacoub Odeh,¹¹ a member¹² of the US-designated, Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).¹³



(PYM, [Facebook](#))

In another example, on July 26, 2018, 17-year-old Mohammad Tareq carried out a terror attack, stabbing 3 people before he was shot dead.¹⁴ Following Tareq's death, PYM shared Tareq's words before he carried out the attack on the PYM Facebook page.

“You who possess arms and bullets, remember that there is an enemy so that you may put your bullets in their bodies...Respect and Glory to all those who fight to defend their people and their honor, the people stand with you, you heroes...Resist so that you may draw your homeland with your blood, you people of honor...”¹⁵

PYM also justified his actions by writing **“We recognize that our youth are forced into becoming heroes because of the conditions in which they live, and that the people of Palestine will continue to resist until our land and our people are liberated from the river to the sea.”¹⁶**

¹¹ PYM, [“From Turtle Island to Palestine: Day 1, November 12: Al-Quds, Lifta, Battir”](#)

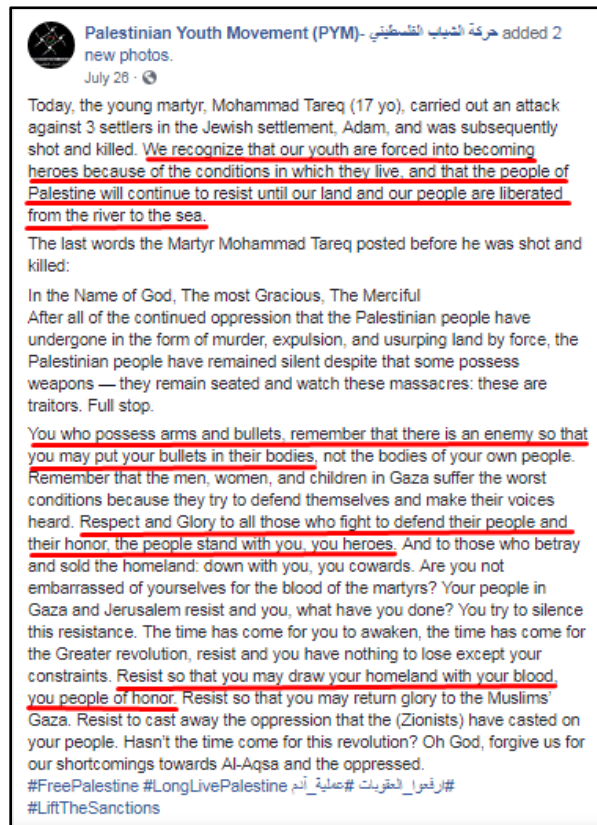
¹² PFLP, [“The people honor a constellation of its old activists at a special ceremony in Ramallah”](#)
Jawlan, [“Letter of thanks and gratitude from Safadi in the occupied Golan”](#)

¹³ US Department of State, [“Foreign Terrorist Organizations”](#)

¹⁴ Ynet, [“Terrorist who stabbed three people in Adam is 17 years old from West Bank”](#)

¹⁵ PYM, [Facebook](#)

¹⁶ PYM, [Facebook](#)



(PYM, [Facebook](#))

Only two weeks later, on August 9, 2018, following an exchange of heavy fire between Israel and Hamas along the Gaza border, PYM posted in support of 7 “martyrs,” **three of whom were official Hamas fighters.**



(PYM, [Facebook](#))

Ali Al-Ghandour

Abdul-Hafeth Seelawi



(Ali Al-Ghandour, [Hamis website](#))



(Abdul Hafeth Seelawi, [Al-Qassam website](#))

Ahmad Abdullah Morjan



(Ahmad Abdullah Morjan, [Al-Qassam website](#))

In another example, PYM publicly and officially endorsed a hunger strike initiated by Palestinian terror leaders in Israeli prisons, which was intended to force the Palestinian Authority (PA) to lift sanctions imposed on Gaza. All the leaders belonged to US-designated terror groups such as the PFLP, Hamas, and Palestinian Islamic Jihad. PYM posted an image to Facebook with the leaders' pictures and the logos of the US-designated terror groups they belong to.

رؤساء الهيئات التنظيمية
بسجون الاحتلال

الأسير زيد بسيسي
الأسير محمد الملح
الأسير كميل أبو حنيش
الأسير محمد عمران
الأسير ماجد المصري
الأسير ناصر عويس

شاركون في الإضراب المفتوح عن الطعام رفضاً لقطع السلطة رواتب أسرى غزة

Palestinian Youth Movement (PYM) - حركة الشباب الفلسطيني
Like This Page · July 25

Palestinian Prisoners' Movement Statement:

After months of efforts in the Gaza Strip to return rights to the families of prisoners, who are held in the prisons of the occupation, we have failed to receive an answer towards lifting this blatant injustice and reinstating the families' rights. Therefore, we affirm the framework of steps that we have utilized, including the open-ended Hunger Strike which a number of our prisoners have just begun. We firmly believe that he who is in a position of responsibility must be on the frontlines, and that he must sacrifice his flesh and blood with those who gave them this responsibility on their behalves. This is how we have always operated in the Prisoner's movement. In affirmation of our strategy and tradition of speaking the truth in the face of the evil that has usurped the rights of our families, we announce today that our leaders, the heads of the committees of the Prisoner's movement for Palestinian prisoners in the prisons of the occupation will undergo an open-ended Hunger Strike. They are our Brothers, Comrades, and Mujahideen:

- The Palestinian Liberation Movement (Fatah) Coordinators of the organizational preparatory committee in the prisons of the occupation. The Brother fighter: Nasser Aweys. The Brother fighter: Majid al - Masri.
- The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) Head of the supreme leadership of Hamas prisoners of the occupation. The Mujahid: Mohammed Armanah.
- The Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine Head of the supreme leadership of prisoners of Islamic Jihad in the prisons of the occupation. The Mujahid: Zaid Bassisi.
- The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (Prisons Branch) The Comrade: Camille Abu Hanish.

(PYM, [Facebook](#))

Additionally, PYM has venerated and honored Ghassan Kanafani, the former leader and spokesperson of the PFLP,¹⁷ a US-designated terror organization.¹⁸ Kanafani was assassinated by the Mossad in 1972 for his role with the PFLP in the Lod airport massacre.¹⁹

PYM has not only referred to Kanafani as an “iconic national hero,”²⁰ but even launched a Resistance-Arts Scholarship after him, the Ghassan Kanafani Scholarship.²¹

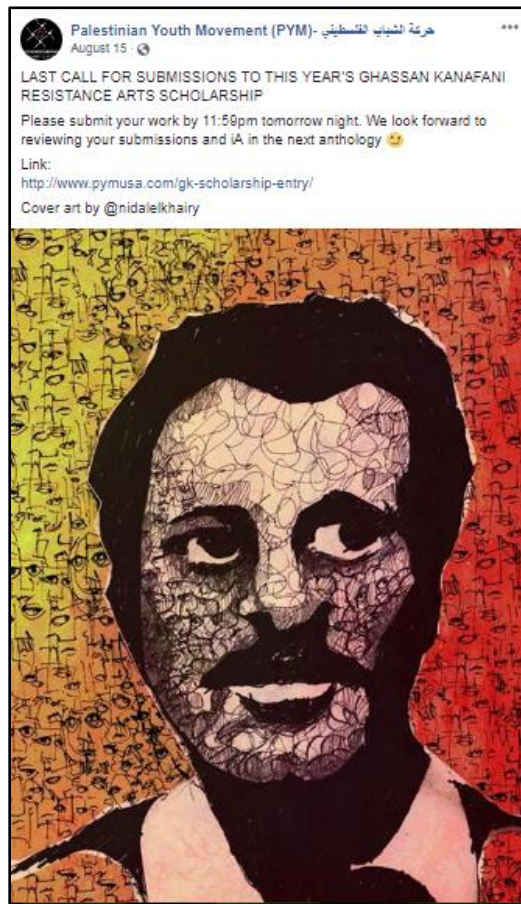
¹⁷ PFLP, [Full transcript: Classic video interview with Comrade Ghassan Kanafani re-surfaces](#)

¹⁸ US Department of State, “[Foreign Terrorist Organizations](#),” listed as of 10/08/1997

¹⁹ Haaretz, [With Thanks to Ghassan Kanafani](#)

²⁰ PYM USA, [Ghassan Kanafani Scholarship](#)

²¹ Ibid.



(PYM, [Facebook](#))

PYM also sells Ghassan Kanafani t-shirts on its online store. (As of October 2018, the shirts were still for sale).



(PYM, [Facebook](#))

Further, Nadine Hassoun, a member in PYM and active in the San Diego area,²² has expressed admiration for Kanafani on her personal Facebook page.



(Nadine Hassoun, [Facebook](#))

Moreover, PYM has extolled and praised, Basil Al-Araj, a Palestinian, connected to the PFLP,²³ who was assassinated by the Israel Defense Forces in 2017 for his involvement in planning and executing terror attacks against Israelis.²⁴

²² LaunchGood, [Support the Khaled Bakrawi Community Center in El Cajun, CA.](#); Facebook, [PYM – San Diego Group](#)

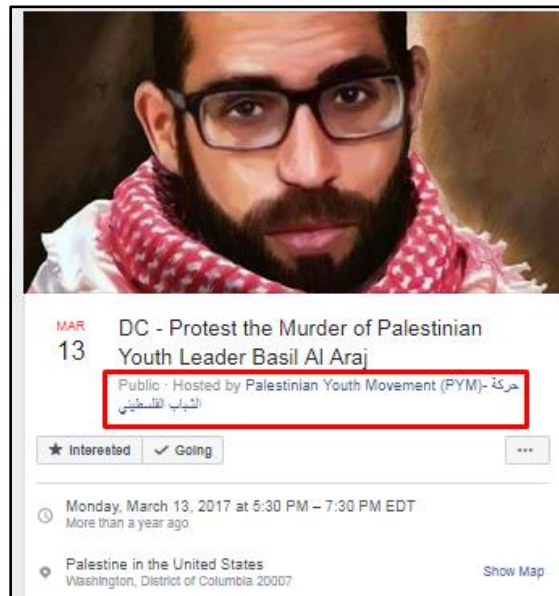
²³ After his assassination, the PFLP wrote numerous articles on its website praising Al-Araj. See for example: PFLP, "[PFLP calls for wide participation in funeral of martyr Basil al-Araj, organizing rallies and symbolic funerals](#),"; PFLP, "[PFLP denounces the assassination of young Palestinian struggler and leader Basil al-Araj](#),"; PFLP, "[PFLP denounces PA trial of martyr Basil al-Araj and comrades. supports youth protests against security coordination](#),"; PFLP member, Khaled Barakat also praised Al-Araj. See for example: PFLP, "[Barakat: “Basil al-Araj was a reflection of the comprehensive activist, in thought and action”](#)"

²⁴ EFE, "[Israel returns body of Palestinian Basel Al-Araj, killed during his arrest](#)"



(PYM, [Facebook](#))

In March 2017, PYM hosted an event in Washington DC titled “Protest the Murder of Palestinian Youth Leader Basil Al Araj.”

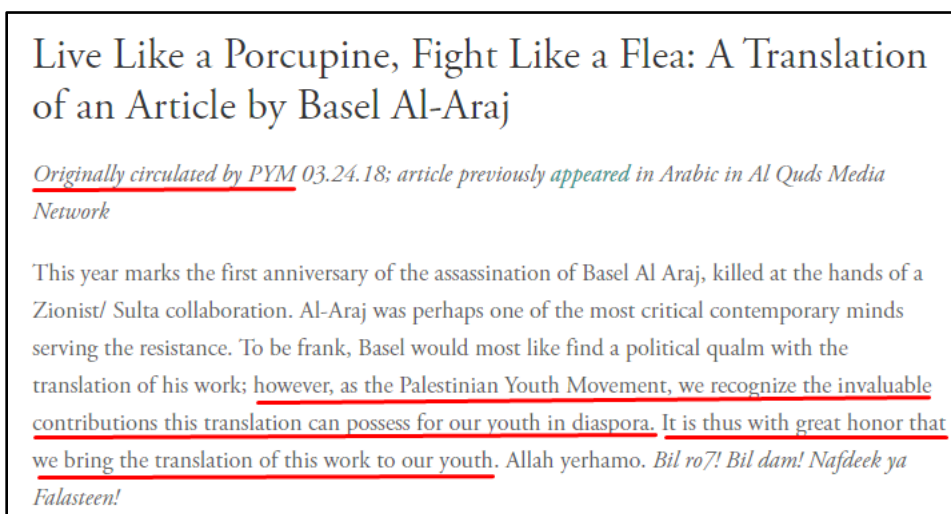


(PYM Events, [Facebook](#))

PYM also translated and disseminated Al-Araj's writings on the PYM Facebook page and website.



(PYM, [Facebook](#))



(PYM, "[Live Like a Porcupine, Fight Like a Flea: A Translation of an Article by Basel Al-Araj](#)")

PYM has also shown support for Ramea Odeh, a former member of the PFLP, who was convicted and imprisoned by Israel for her role in the murder of two students, Leon Kanner and Eddie Joffe in 1969.²⁵

²⁵ Amir Bogen, [From Terrorist to the Face of the Palestinian Struggle](#), Ynet

For example, in 2014, after Odeh was arrested by US authorities for lying on her immigration papers,²⁶ PYM was a member of her defense committee,²⁷ advocating for her release.²⁸ PYM also described her as "a beacon of hope, strength, dedication, resilience and honesty."²⁹

She has dedicated her whole life and heart to standing on the side of justice when others too often fear to speak truth to power. There is no one with more of a moral compass than Rasmea Odeh and the care that she demonstrates for her community and for the world should be celebrated and honored, not criminalized.

In November 2014, Rasmea was convicted of Unlawful Procurement of Naturalization. Compassion in her sentencing will serve justice in this case. She was detained for a month immediately following the verdict, including almost 3 weeks in solitary confinement, which was extremely difficult for her.

(PYM, "[Letter for Leniency for Rasmea Odeh](#)")



(PYM, "[Letter for Leniency for Rasmea Odeh](#)")

Lastly, PYM has also backed Khader Adnan, a leading member of the US-designated terror organization, Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ).³⁰

²⁶ The Guardian, [Arab-American Activist on Trial for Allegedly Concealing Terror Role in Immigration Papers](#)

²⁷ Justice 4 Rasmea, "[Defense Committee](#)"

²⁸ PYM USA Website, [Letter for Leniency for Rasmea Odeh](#)

²⁹ PYM USA Website, [Letter for Leniency for Rasmea Odeh](#)

³⁰ TheNewArab, "[Islamic Jihad threatens to end truce if Adnan dies](#)"



(PYM, [Facebook](#))

Endorsing Violence, "Promoting Resistance"

PYM has time and again called for violence and aggression against Israel and its citizens.

For example, on July 29, 2018 PYM uploaded a 7-minute video of PYM members chanting various slogans that included calling for the kidnapping of Israeli soldiers and violent uprising. The chants included:

- "Son of Gaza, **kidnap a [Israeli] soldier and free our prisoners.** No [more] siege and no [more] hunger – **no trading with the blood of the martyrs.**"
- "Long live the Intifada" [armed uprising].
- "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free."

The phrase "Son of Gaza, kidnap a soldier and free our prisoners" has been used frequently in recent years by Palestinians during protests in support of prisoners.

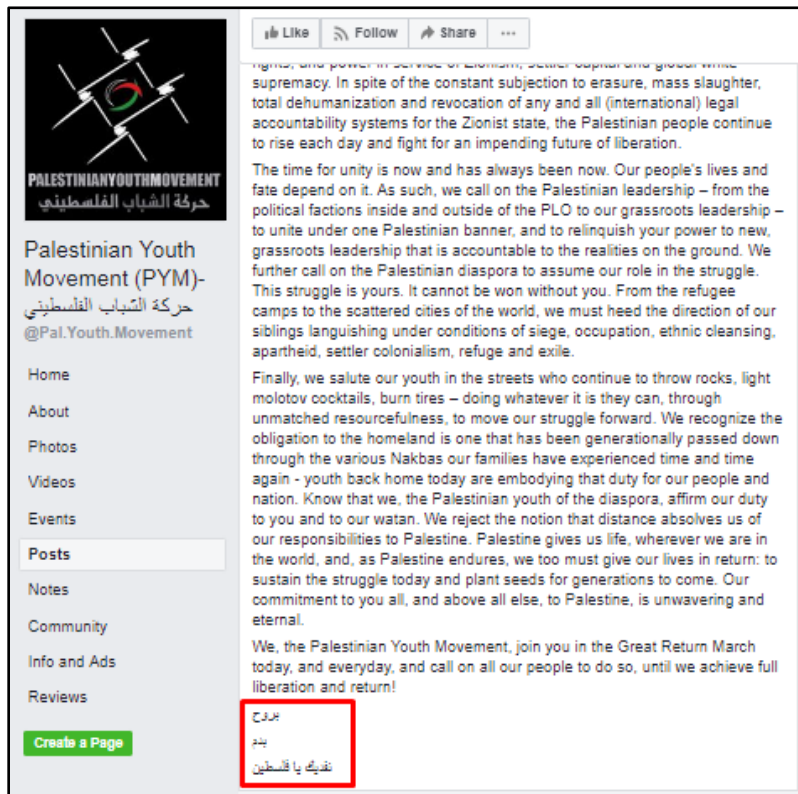


(PYM, [Facebook](#))

In another example, PYM leader, Mohammad Nabulsi, led a violence-promoting chant at the National Students for Justice in Palestine Conference in November 2018. PYM uploaded a video of Nabulsi leading the NSJP conference in “Intifada, Intifada, Long Live the Intifada.” (The video has since been removed).



PYM is also a leading proponent of the Great Return March campaign that has seen weekly violent riots by Palestinians on Gaza’s border with Israel. In a public statement supporting the march, PYM ended with a slogan that was frequently used by Yasser Arafat: "In spirit and in blood we will redeem you, Palestine."



(PYM, [Facebook](#))

Further, PYM's second official Facebook page, managed by the international leadership and called the "Transnational Great Return March," contains many images and posts in support of the violent riots. The following are just a couple of examples.



(Transnational Great Return March, [Facebook](#))



(Transnational Great Return March, [Facebook](#))

Collaboration with Terror-Affiliated Organizations

PYM has collaborated with terror-affiliated organizations. For example, on multiple occasions PYM has worked together with Samidoun, a group affiliated with the PFLP. Samidoun's leaders, Khaled Barakat and Charlotte Kates,³¹ are PFLP members³² and Khaled Barakat is also the International Coordinator for the "Campaign to Free Ahmad Saadat,"³³ a prisoner, terrorist and the former secretary-general of the PFLP.³⁴ In March 2017, Samidoun representative, Adnan Farsakh,³⁵ spoke at a PYM event in support of Basil Al-Araj (mentioned above).³⁶ Later the same year, Samidoun co-sponsored a PYM event in New York in support of Palestinian prisoners.³⁷

PYM also shared an event on its Transnational Great Return March that Samidoun held in London marking "100 years of fighting Zionism, colonialism and imperialism." The Facebook event picture that PYM shared included a photo of PFLP leader, Ahmad Saadat.³⁸

³¹ PFLP Website, [South Africa Visit](#)

³² Pelest, [Interview with Khaled Barakat](#)

³³ Campaign to Free Ahmad Saadat, "[Khaled Barakat's presentation at Paris event to free Georges Ibrahim Abdallah](#)"

³⁴ PFLP, [Barakat: Urgent call for solidarity actions with Sa'adat and all Palestinian prisoners](#)

³⁵ Samidoun, "[Protests in New York and Washington demand justice, accountability for Basil al-Araj, end to security coordination.](#)"

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ PYM, [Facebook Event](#) "Portraits 4 Palestine: Stand with the Strikers,"

³⁸ YNET, "[Israel Sentences PFLP Leader to 30 Years in Prison](#)"



(Transnational Great Return March, [Facebook](#))

PYM has also worked with Addameer, another PFLP-affiliated organization (PFLP members founded and run Addameer).³⁹ For instance, in May 2017, PYM co-organized a Palestinian-students in the US one-day hunger strike with Addameer⁴⁰ and then in November of the same year hosted Addameer’s Director Sahar Francis in California for an event titled "Building Solidarity Against Militarization."⁴¹



(PYM Facebook Event, “[Building Solidarity Against Militarization](#)”)

PYM again collaborated with Addameer in November 2018, when PYM brought a delegation from the US to Addameer’s office in the West Bank.⁴²

³⁹ Addameer was created and is run by members of the PFLP, possibly even by the PFLP itself, to support PFLP terrorists once they have been arrested and put in prison. Of 9 current board members (with the exception of the treasurer and secretary), at least 6 are PFLP members, including Abdullatif Ghaith, Addameer’s founder and chairman, and Khalida Jarrar, Addameer’s former vice-chairperson. See for example: Al-Watan Voice, "[A celebration on the occasion of the release of Comrade Jammal Abu-Jamal](#)"; Raymonda Tawil, "[Let's give them a bouquet of roses](#)"

⁴⁰ Samidoun, "[Global Schedule of Events to Support Palestinian Prisoners’ Hunger Strike](#)"

⁴¹ PYM Facebook Event, "[Building Solidarity Against Militarization](#),"

⁴² PYM, "[From Turtle Island to Palestine](#)"



(PYM, [Facebook](#))

On the same delegation, PYM spent time with DCI-P,⁴³ another organization in the West Bank that has ties to the PFLP.⁴⁴

PYM's Other Influential Activities

PYM's Summer School

In 2015, PYM held its first summer school with 60 participants, which included workshops and lectures on topics like Palestinian identity, collectiveness, solidarity, collaboration and activism.⁴⁵ At the time, PYM was comprised of only 15 active members in the United States.⁴⁶ However, the summer school was a great success, with 70% of the attendees joining the movement. Two years later, in 2017, PYM held their second summer school with 50 attendees, 25 of whom were not already members of the movement.⁴⁷

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ UKLFI, "[Banks withdraw services from terror linked NGO,](#)"

⁴⁵ Ahmad Jamil Azam, [The Palestinian Youth: From Organizing to Activism \(1908-2018\)](#)

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ Ibid.



(Palestinian Youth Movement, [YouTube](#))

Khaled Bakrawi Community Center

In early 2018, PYM opened its San-Diego-based Khaled Bakrawi Community Center, a space to host and co-organize events with other organizations related to Palestine and other liberation struggles. For example, in November 2018 USPCN used the Khaled Bakrawi Center for a “report back” event following its delegation to Israel and the Palestinian Territories.⁴⁸



(USPCN event, [Facebook](#))

⁴⁸ Facebook, [USPCN Delegation to Palestine: Report from the Frontlines](#)

Delegation to Israel and the Palestinian Territories

PYM's emphasis on a broader national struggle (as mentioned above) also manifests itself in a focus on intersectionality. One of PYM's core principles is the "justice centered" approach, the recognition that there are other justice struggles in the world that need to be supported and solidarity with these other struggles is linked to the liberation of Palestine.⁴⁹ As such, PYM has in recent years taken part in several activities aimed at strengthening the relationship with other liberation movements.

On November 12, 2018, this collaboration climaxed in PYM launching its first delegation to the Palestinian Territories. It organized this 10-person delegation, called "From Turtle Island to Palestine," to bring diaspora Palestinians and the indigenous people of Turtle Island together to share in each other's struggles.⁵⁰ This delegation shows PYM's growth over recent years but also its ability to reach audiences outside just the Palestinian diaspora.

Collaboration with Students for Justice in Palestine

PYM has also collaborated extensively with Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), both with local SJP campus chapters and on a national level with National SJP (NSJP). For example, PYM has led several workshops at NSJP conferences including the conferences in 2011,⁵¹ 2013,⁵² and 2018.⁵³ Many of PYM's current members were previously leading activists in their respective SJP chapters on campus. A few examples include: Mohammed Nabulsi,⁵⁴ and Celine Qussini,⁵⁵ and Samer Alhato (Samer Owaida).⁵⁶

As a youth movement operating within the local community and not exclusively university campuses, PYM provides an alternative platform of engagement and activism for activists once they've graduated from university. This can be seen from one of PYM's workshops during the 2018 NSJP conference which was titled: "*Beyond the Campus: Joint Struggle and Community Organizing*" and aimed to deal with the question "*What do we do when we graduate?*"⁵⁷

⁴⁹ Istituto Affari Internazionali, [The Palestinian Youth Movement \(PYM\): Transnational Politic, Inter/National Frameworks and Intersectional Alliances](#)

⁵⁰ PYM, [From Turtle Island to Palestine](#)

⁵¹ SJP National, [National SJP Conference 2011 Program](#)

⁵² SJP National, [National SJP Conference 2013 Program](#)

⁵³ Taken from PYM's Instagram

⁵⁴ Sputniknews, [Palestine-Israel Conflict Enflames Passion on American Campus](#)

Facebook, [Students for Justice in Palestine at UH](#)

⁵⁵ Facebook, [Palestinian Youth Movement Group](#); Office of Student Conduct, [Sanction Letter](#)

⁵⁶ YouTube, [Palestinian Youth Movement Member Speaks at SlutWalk Chicago 2017](#),

Twitter, [Samer Alhato](#)

⁵⁷ Instagram stories



Financial Information

PYM is not a registered 501(c)(3) organization in the US and instead solicits donations and grants through its fiscal sponsor, WESPAC Foundation.⁵⁸

Two of PYM's larger donors are the Sparkplug Foundation,⁵⁹ which gave \$12,000 to PYM for its 2015 summer school,⁶⁰ and the Violet Jabara Trust,⁶¹ which gave \$8,789 for the summer school and another \$15,000 in 2017 for PYM's annual convention.

PYM also uses crowd funding platforms such as Launchgood and GoFundMe as well as an online store to raise funds.

⁵⁸ Sparkplug Foundation, [2015 Form 990](#); The Hill, [Congress Should be Wary of Palestinian Youth Group](#)

⁵⁹ Sparkplug Foundation, [2015 Form 990](#)


⁶⁰ Sparkplug Foundation, [2015 Form 990](#)


⁶¹ The Violet Jabara Charitable Trust, [Recent Grants](#)

Palestinian Youth Movement [Share](#) [Login/Sign Up](#)

Palestinian Youth Movement

The Palestinian Youth Movement is proud to have an online store. Our cities t-shirts have gained so much popularity and support and we wanted to be able to share it with everyone. These specific cities represent the constant militarization, imperialism, racial genocide, oppression and affects of settler colonialism. While there are many more cities and places around the world that face the same injustices, know that we keep them on our minds and in our hearts. All proceeds will go towards PYM programming, building youth leadership, cultural empowerment and future PYM campaigns. We hope you enjoy these amazing t-shirts and other designs we've accumulated over the years. Until Return & Liberation. We will be printing these shirts every 3 weeks so expect your shirt to be delivered between 4-5 weeks after ordering. Thanks






6733 Gaza Ferguson grey [Details](#)

1


[Add To Cart](#)



6733 Gaza Ferg Heather [Details](#)

1

[Add To Cart](#)




6733 Gaza Ferg Indigo [Details](#)

1

[Add To Cart](#)

(Palestinian Youth Movement, [Online Store](#))

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\$640 of \$1,000 goal

Raised by 12 people in 1 month

[Donate Now](#)

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Created June 29, 2018

PYM Houston

Other
KATY, TX

Top Supporters

First Donor

AT Amer Taha
\$200

Most Raised From Sharing

Dunia Ghanimah
\$25 from sharing

Recent Donations

Help Send PYM Houston to California

[Share](#) [Tweet](#)

The Palestinian Youth Movement - USA (PYM) is hosting a national convening in San Francisco from July 27th to the 29th. The convening will focus on the relationship Palestinian youth in the diaspora has to our national movement. PYM Houston will be sending 4 of its members to represent the local chapter but needs help with funding for travel and housing. Please donate and help us get there in order for us to strengthen our organizing efforts in our communities and learn from other Palestinian organizers in the US. Every penny of your contribution will help us in attending this convening!

(PYM's Houston, [GoFundMe](#))

How it Works | **Start Your Campaign** | Join Dhul Hijjah Challenge!

Khaled Bakrawi Center in El Cajon

The Palestinian Youth Movement (PYM) needs your support to open its first community center in San Diego, in the heart of El Cajon: the Khaled Bakrawi Center.

San Diego, CA | Causes | Other

\$135
funded of \$5,000 goal

6
supporters

Project Closed

Closed

PARTIAL FUNDING
This campaign collected all funds raised on Dec 3, 2017 2:00 AM.

(Khaled Bakrawi Center in El Cajon Campaign, [LaunchGood](#))

Grant from the University of California

In addition to its funding appeals, in 2018 PYM was awarded a grant from "The UC Critical Refugee Studies Collective,"⁶² a program funded by the University of California Office of the President Multicampus Research Programs and Initiatives.⁶³ The grant was awarded to PYM's Nakba project, commemorating 70 years since the Nakba (catastrophe in Arabic) in 1948.⁶⁴

Financial Status

Despite the grants and fundraising money which are channeled to PYM's yearly events, its own internal communication in recent years suggests that the group depends on minimal income to sustain itself. PYM has no paid personnel, and every donation goes for the causes of the movement.⁶⁵

⁶² The Critical Refugee Studies Collective, [2018 Grants in Critical Refugee Studies](#)

⁶³ The Critical Refugee Studies Collective, ["Who We Are"](#); The Critical Refugee Studies Collective, [2018 Grants in Critical Refugee Studies](#)

⁶⁴ The Critical Refugee Studies Collective, [2018 Grant Awardees](#)

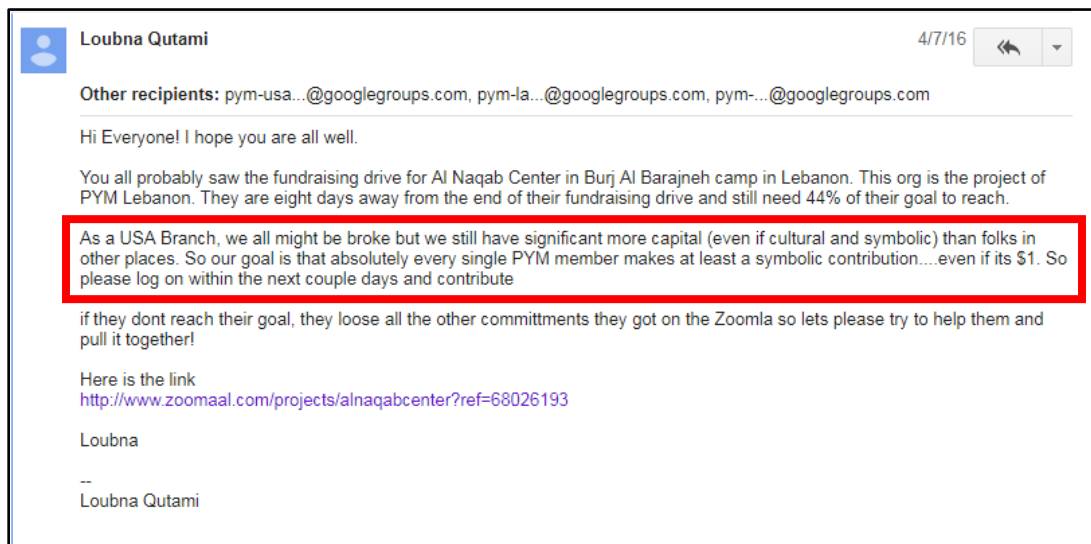
⁶⁵ Google groups, [PYM-USA Coordinating group](#)

We are currently preparing several international projects and programs including a summer school for our members, an international conference tour of the "Arab Youth for Dignity and Liberation" participants and our 3rd International General Assembly at the end of this year. **BUT WE CANNOT CONTINUE TO DO THIS WORK WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT!**

Our challenges are grave amidst growing robust tactics of censorship, repression and intimidation but we make a promise to remain committed, fearless and determined to keep our struggle alive. While we are a grassroots transnational movement with no paid personnel; our expenses...while basic are still vast. Overhead costs such as printing, developing our website, communications mechanisms, meeting expenses and travel makes our work threatened by the financial burden we continue to carry!

In this regard, we hope we can count on your gracious contribution to help offset the deep expenses PYM faces. Any support goes a long way and

(Loubna Qutami, [Al-Juthoor Google group](#))



Loubna Qutami 4/7/16

Other recipients: pym-usa...@googlegroups.com, pym-la...@googlegroups.com, pym-...@googlegroups.com

Hi Everyone! I hope you are all well.

You all probably saw the fundraising drive for Al Naqab Center in Burj Al Barajneh camp in Lebanon. This org is the project of PYM Lebanon. They are eight days away from the end of their fundraising drive and still need 44% of their goal to reach.

As a USA Branch, we all might be broke but we still have significant more capital (even if cultural and symbolic) than folks in other places. So our goal is that absolutely every single PYM member makes at least a symbolic contribution...even if its \$1. So please log on within the next couple days and contribute

if they dont reach their goal, they loose all the other commitments they got on the Zoomla so lets please try to help them and pull it together!

Here is the link
<http://www.zoomaal.com/projects/alnaqabcenter?ref=68026193>

Loubna

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Loubna Qutami

(Loubna Qutami, [PYM-USA Google group](#))

Conclusion:

An Extreme Force Among Palestinian Youth

Over the last 10 years, PYM has managed to establish its presence in the US, by developing the ability to sustain itself financially and by expanding its member base and reach. Its new chapters, two successful summer schools, prominent presence at multiple National SJP conferences and other Palestinian-related events, as well as its delegation abroad this past year are proof that PYM's message is becoming increasingly attractive to diaspora Palestinian youth. PYM's future development plans

only further indicate that PYM has become a leading voice among the Palestinian diaspora and has plans to navigate discourse and activism moving forward.

This is incredibly concerning because PYM's agenda includes the promotion of violence and hatred as well as the endorsement and justification of US-designated terror organizations and their terror activities. PYM also collaborates with terror-affiliated organizations such as Samidoun and Addameer and provides its community center to other problematic groups in the US.

PYM's stature in the Palestinian community, coupled with its emphasis on intersectionality and cross-struggle solidarity, will likely lead to further collaboration and the growth of PYM's influence. Thus, it is essential to undermine PYM's legitimacy, limit its organizing capabilities, and hold its donors as well as its fiscal sponsor, WESPAC, responsible for enabling its activities.